

# Hoodlums Kill Two Policemen, Burn Five Stations In Ebonyi



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NEWS



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**ABAKALIKI** – Two policemen, Inspector Egu Omini and PC Akpu Paul, were confirmed killed on Wednesday while four others were injured and five police stations burnt by hoodlums who allegedly took away two AK47 rifles in Ebonyi State.

The hoodlums were said to have carried out the heinous acts allegedly as #EndSARS protesters.

The four policemen injured are ASP Akili Benson, Inspector Okewu Sunday, Inspector Egun Omini, and PC Ali Samson, while the five police stations burnt are the 'B' Division, Kpirikpiri; 'C' Division, Ekumenyi; Central Police Station (CPS) ('A' Division), Ohaozara Division; Okposi Police Station, and the Ezza North Divisional Headquarters.

The private parts of the slain Inspector Egu Omini were reportedly cut off by the attackers.

The hoodlums also burnt patrol vehicles, exhibit cars and motorcycles, exhibit documents and other valuable property in the separate attacks.

The state Police Command, in a statement signed by the Public Relations Officer, DSP Loveth Odah, said the attacks were carried out by suspected members of the proscribed Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB).

Odah said six suspects had been arrested in connection with the attacks and charged to court.

She said: “On Wednesday, October 21, 2020, the protest was hijacked by criminal minded miscreants suspected to be members of the proscribed Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) who invaded Central Police Station, Abakaliki, shooting sporadically at the policemen, in the process two policemen (PC Akpu Paul and PC Ali Samson) sustained bullet injuries and two days later one of the victims, PC Paul Akpu, died while on admission at the Alex Ekwueme Federal Teaching Hospital, Abakaliki (A-E FETHA).

“The hoodlums proceeded to B Division Kprikpri/C Division Ekumenyi (Eke-Abe Police Station) and set the two stations on fire, after looting exhibit motorcycles, plasma TVs, fans and other valuables from the exhibit rooms.

“In the same vein, the criminals made an attempt to break and release inmates from the Abakaliki custodial centre, but the joint force of the police and other sister security agencies could not allow them access to the facility.

“(This happened) despite the launching of community policing by the Inspector-General of Police and the inauguration of the state committees by the executive governor of Ebonyi State, aimed at bringing the police closer to the public and the immediate action taken by the executive governor of the state towards tackling the demand made by #EndSARS protesters in Ebonyi State by setting up a judicial panel to investigate human rights violations and victims support fund, giving a room for the members of the public to register their complaint.

“The hoodlums resurfaced on October 22, 2020, and set ablaze the Ohaozara Divisional Headquarters and Okposi Police Station together with two patrol vehicles, three exhibit vehicles, and the DPO’s car.

“The hoodlums also critically injured Inspector Egun Omini attached to Ohaozara Division who is currently on admission in the hospital.

“They looted the two police formations’ exhibit rooms and vandalised the newly built Okposi Divisional Headquarters which is yet to be commissioned.

“A joint operation of the police, the military and other sister security agencies was immediately deployed to the scene of crimes and strategic points within the state to avert further damage and six suspects were arrested in connection with the case.

“They include Ogodo Echezona ‘m’, Nwanikwo Ogbonna ‘m’, Ukoro Leonard ‘m’, Elom Joseph Onwe ‘m’, Odo Sunday ‘m’, Ituma Abel ‘m’, while others fled the scene. The arrested suspects have been charged to court.

“All the appeals, warnings, and other professional efforts made by the police to stop the hoodlums from further attacks proved abortive as they regrouped in their large numbers on Monday 26/10/2020 and reinvaded the Central Police Station, Abakaliki, for the second time, set the station on fire together with police patrol vehicles, exhibit vehicles, tricycles/motorcycles, and other police property seen within the station, shooting sporadically at the policemen, as a result, (they) gruesomely murdered one Inspector Egu Omini, cut off his private part, and snatched his AK47 rifle.

“As if that was not enough, today, Wednesday 28/10/2020, at about 4a.m, the hoodlums again stormed the Ezza North Divisional Headquarters, vandalised the building, burnt two vehicles and exhibit motorcycles.

“They shot and wounded one Inspector Okewu Sunday and snatched his AK47 riffle. The victim is currently receiving treatment in the hospital.

“The Commissioner of Police, Ebonyi State, wishes to use this medium to warn all criminal minded individuals or groups who would wish to make an attempt to further attack or disrupt the peace of the state that he will no longer fold his hands and watch the lives and property of his men and other innocent citizens wasted.”

### **Police Recover Additional 30 Tractors Looted In Adamawa**

Meanwhile, police in Adamawa said on Thursday in Yola that they have recovered additional 30 tractors, 107 bags of fertilisers, 28 hand tractors and 29 cartons of agro-chemicals looted by some hoodlums who hijacked the #EndSARS protest.

The police announced only on Wednesday that they arrested 238 suspects from whom 35 tractors, nine vehicles, more than 600 bags of fertiliser, 50 hand tractors and hoes, and 18 bags of maize were recovered.

Police command’s spokesperson, DSP Suleiman Nguroje, said that the additional recovery was also made possible with the cooperation of other security agencies in the state.

“The command equally arrested four female and one male suspect, who allegedly looted public, corporate and private warehouses during the protest.

“The Commissioner of Police, Olugbenga Adeyanju, thanks the people of Adamawa, especially those who volunteered information to the police leading to the recovery of the looted items,” he stated.

Nguroje implored the people to continue to give such useful information and to report any suspicious persons or hoodlums to the nearest police station.